

Applicant : Jian Bai, Steven M. Fischer and J. Michael Flanagan
Appl. No. : 10/806,907
Examiner : Nguyen, Kiet T.
Docket No. : 10980322-5

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, lines 9 and 10, please replace with the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of co-pending application serial number 09/146,817 filed on September 4, 1998, which This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/089,088, filed June 12, 1998 which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

On page 15, line 24 through page 16, line 9, please replace with the following paragraph:

Figures 1 and 2 are a schematic representation of a cross section of an ambient pressure MALDI source (10A) and mass spectrometer (10B). Laser (11) is activated directing a laser beam (12) to the sample in the matrix (13) on sample holder (14), at or about ambient pressure. Sample holder (14) may be a multi-well sample plate, which is moved in an organized manner by a conventional multi-axis (XYZ) sample translation and rotation stage (15). This stage is programmable and can operate under data system control. Sample holder (14) is grounded (16). Sample in the matrix (13) is ionized producing ions (17) in the ambient pressure chamber (18) having cover (19). The atmosphere within the chamber (18) is usually air, however, conventional inert gases may be used to suppress oxidation of an analyte or portion thereof. All of these components with the exception of the laser (11) are located within the sample chamber mount (20). The ions produced pass through a dielectric capillary (21) which is usually held at several kilovolts potential, through a first skimmer (22), a lens (23), ~~multipole~~ multiple ion guide (24) and a second skimmer (25) to be analyzed by a mass spectrometer (26). It should be understood that the above description is intended to illustrate and not limit the scope of the invention. Other aspects, advantages and modifications within the scope of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains.

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Conclusion

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the undersigned can be reached at (949) 567-6700.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this Amendment to deposit account No. 50-1078.

Respectfully submitted,

ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE LLP

Dated: September 20, 2004

By: 

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